GO MEATLESS FOR DINNER WITH MUSHROOM STROGANOFF {page 11}

WORK IN PROGRESS A YEAR ON, TIGER STILL TRYING TO FIND HIS GAME {page 13}

LUSH LIFE

RUSSELL BRAND KNOWS IT ALL TOO WELL {page 8}

WINNIPEG metro®

Wednesday, April 6, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Careless drivers aiding car thieves

Despite immobilizers, keys in the ignition make vehicles easy bait for criminals

Hundreds of drivers installed aftermarket immobilizers in their cars, only to report them stolen later, according to records obtained from MPI by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

While none of the immobilizers failed, most of the reported thefts were a result of keys being left inside vehicles. In 47 cases, when owners reported them stolen, the cars had actually been towed.

"If they leave the keys in the car and it's stolen, the vehicle will be covered ... It's really no different than a person who drives on a frozen lake and it goes through the ice. It was an unwise decision, but we don't punish the unwise decision." BRIAN SMILEY, MPI SPOKESPERSON

Between Jan. 1, 2006 and Aug. 31, 2010, 852 cars with immobilizers were reported stolen in Winnipeg.

MPI spokesperson Brian Smiley said he couldn't say how many times an immobilizer prevented a theft "because some thieves walk by a vehicle, see it has an immobilizer and move on." JESSICA SMITH

Layton. 'Stache grab

▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton with Noelle Depape and her eight-month-old son, Rupert, who goes for the 'stache during a campaign stop in Winnipeg yesterday. Layton made a few policy announcements based around families — but not before he bashed Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Story, page 3.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP leader looks to woo Winnipeg families

Business

Watch your email

Canadian names, email addresses exposed after security breach at U.S. firm {page 6}

Tough times

Aguilera admits to having rough year amid turmoil {page 9}

The seedy side of Las Vegas

Pair of new attractions capitalize on old ties to organized crime {page 10}

May denied in bid to join debate

Judge refuses to make emergency ruling, but Green party vows to fight on {page 4}

1 news

Tories come under withering fire for early social media tumbles. Scan code for story

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On the web at metronews.ca

Canadian actress Kristin Booth says she had no hesitation about joining the beleaguered miniseries The Kennedys. Video at metronews.ca.

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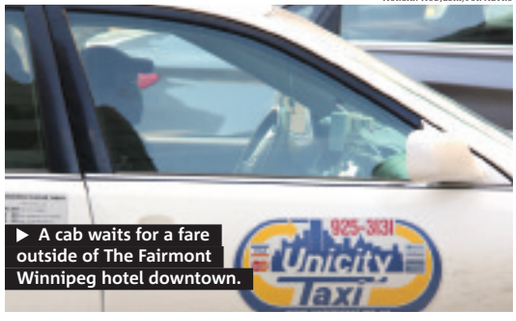
Taxi rep says treatment is 'unfair'

MORGAN MODJESKI/FOR METRO



▶ A cab waits for a fare outside of The Fairmont Winnipeg hotel downtown.

Winnipeg cab drivers and the Manitoba Taxicab Board may have agreed yesterday to allow inspections in all city cabs, but a spokesperson for Unicity Taxi said they were treated unfairly.

"Our fleet in Winnipeg are new cars and they are good cars," said Gurmail Mangnat, president of Unicity Taxi. "Always someone wants to give a bad name to the industry and you cannot stop those people."

Mangnat said some of the things listed as unsafe were minor, adding he believes a car should be listed as unsafe only after a mechanical inspection.

However, the Manitoba Taxicab Board said the inspections are necessary.

"There are certain items that we look for that have to be functioning in the cab," said Bruce Buckley, chairperson of the Manitoba Taxicab Board.

"There was an issue about companies refusing to comply with our inspections ... we can't have that."
BRUCE BUCKLEY, MANITOBA TAXICAB BOARD

Buckley said inspectors check for things like damage and functioning seatbelts. He added that the Taxicab Board will not take a vehicle off the road for something like a burntout light bulb.

Winnipeg has 443 cabs on the road, all of which will be inspected within the next few weeks, said Buckley.

MORGAN MODJESKI

▶ City workers scope out the rising Red River while sandbagging.

Permanent dike not an option

Riverbank stability a factor in construction of permanent dikes: City ◗ Sandbag target height: 6 feet

MORGAN MODJESKI
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

As the city starts to sandbag high-risk flood area Kingston Row, local residents are wondering whether a permanent dike is needed.

A Kingston Row homeowner said the constant sandbagging seems wasteful.

"If they had a permanent dike, then they wouldn't have to spend money on the manpower and the sand," said Nancy Karnen.

Winnipeg has examined builging a permanent dike, but due to riverbank stability issues it's not an option at Kingston Row, said Tammy Melesko, spokesperson for the city.

Melesko also said the city could not provide the cost related with the construction of the temporary dikes, but noted that each sandbag costs $3 to $4.

In 2009, Manitoba's last major flood, more than 500,000 sandbags were used to hold back the rising floodwaters, said Steve Topping, spokesperson with Manitoba Water Stewardship.

"It would be interesting to know how they would do it (permanent dike) and what it would look like."
NANCY KARNEN

For more local news, visit metronews.ca

Bad boys, new cop squad coming

The province announced yesterday it will create a squad of warrant enforcement officers to find and arrest high-risk fugitives.

The squad will work with Winnipeg police, the RCMP and other police forces to find people who have outstanding warrants against them.

Justice Minister Andrew Swan says the legislation is to be introduced this spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Li'l Gaga nominated for MTV award

Maria Aragon is was nominated for the "Best Fan Cover" category of MTV's new O Music Awards.

The 10-year-old 'Pegger shot to Internet fame when her cover of Lady Gaga's Born This Way was tweeted by the pop star.

The award show will be online at omusicawards.com on April 28.

JESSICA SMITH

MORGAN MODJESKI/FOR METRO

MORGAN MODJESKI/FOR METRO

▶ A sandbag bursts as a City worker stacks bags.

Team effort

- Only city workers are currently sandbagging at Kingston Row
- Traffic maybe reduced to one lane at times while sandbagging takes place
- Dikes vary in size depending on expected flood situation
- City is looking for sandbagging volunteers
- On April 4 the city received more than 30 calls for info on volunteering
- Groups and people interested in volunteering should call 311
- Volunteer efforts could start as early as today

GETTY IMAGES

WHAT'S UP IN FARGO

• North Dakota, along the Red River, is at the moderate flood warning level set by the National Weather Service. That means minor, moderate and some major flooding will continue until further notice.

• Like in Manitoba, people in low-lying areas are taking steps to protect themselves and their property.

• The moderate flood warning is prompting officials to warn motorists crossing flooded areas to "Turn around, don't drown."

• The Red River has surpassed 8.5 metres in Fargo and is expected to rise much higher, perhaps reaching the record flood levels.

U.S. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Layton takes a page from Man. government

Makes first local campaign stop in Winnipeg North riding Says families deserve more government support

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

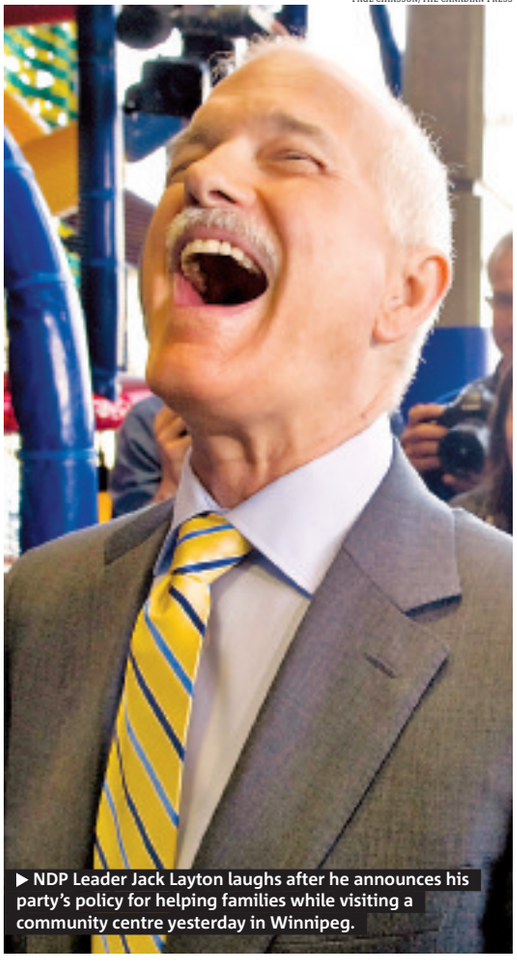
Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton came to Winnipeg to announce $1.3 billion of policy changes to benefit caregivers — including one measure lifted from the Manitoba NDP government.

The projected $90-million-a-year measure is modelled on a Manitoba provincial program, he added. In Winnipeg, "granny suites" are legal, but require approval from the city.

He would also change employment insurance, including expanding the time a worker can take off to care for a sick relatives from six weeks to six months.

"If elected prime minister ... I'll introduce a program that will help families retrofit their homes to create self-contained secondary residences for senior family members."
FEDERAL NDP LEADER JACK LAYTON

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton laughs after he announces his party's policy for helping families while visiting a community centre yesterday in Winnipeg.

ON THE ATTACK

NDP leader comes out swinging

NDP Leader Jack Layton began his Winnipeg speech with barbs at the Conservatives, taking aim at a laundry list of recent scandals. They included reports that Tory campaign staff ejected youth from a rally in London because one had a photo of Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff on her Facebook page.

"I don't know if all these kids have had their Facebooks checked," he quipped, referring to the kids who were playing in the background of his press conference at the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. "We're glad they're here. We don't do that sort of thing."

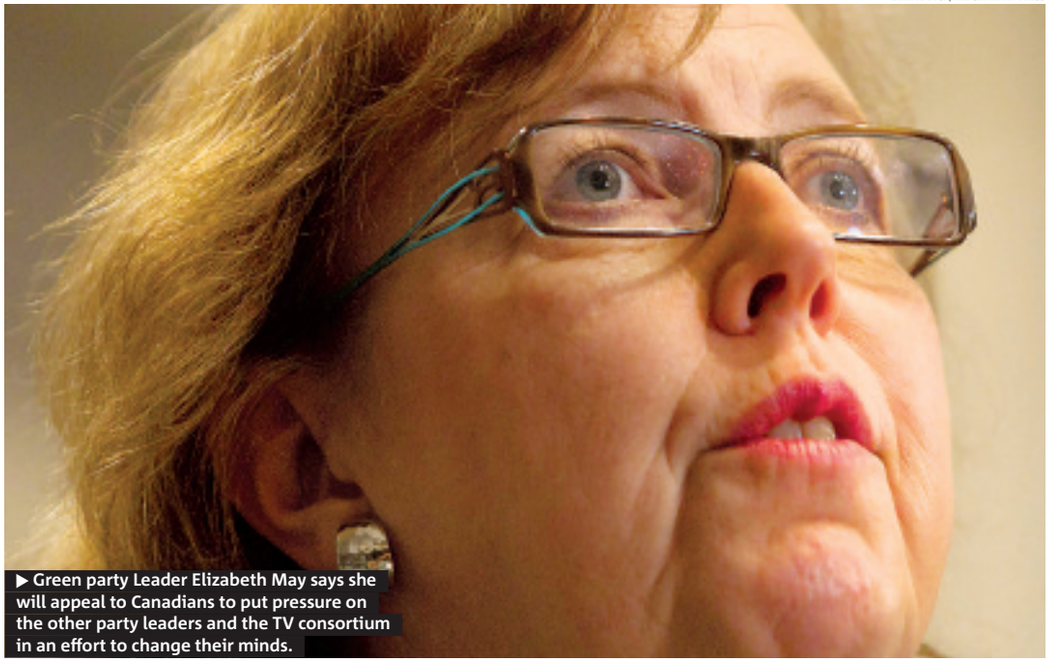
When reporters asked about the incident, Stephen Harper brushed the question aside, appearing to lay the blame at the feet of his campaign workers. "Staff runs our campaigns and I can't comment on individual matters like that," he said during a campaign stop in Quebec.

METRO/WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

No May-bes: She's off TV

Elizabeth May loses bid to join leaders' debates But Greens fight on

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Green party Leader Elizabeth May says she will appeal to Canadians to put pressure on the other party leaders and the TV consortium in an effort to change their minds.

Election 2011

Elizabeth May has been thwarted in her last-ditch effort to convince the courts to give her a podium at next week's televised leaders' debates.

But the Green party leader is not giving up yet.

Federal Court judge Marc Nadon refused yesterday to make an emergency ruling on the case before the debates get underway. The short period of time wouldn't have allowed the court "to perform its duty in a satisfactory manner," Nadon said.

It was a body blow for the Greens, who received a major blast of publicity when May participated in the debates during the 2008 federal election.

The Greens will pursue the matter in the Federal Court of Appeal, even though the case can't be heard before the debates, May said.

But she will also be talking to her lawyer about whether there are "any legal avenues" that would allow the Greens to have the matter heard in court before then.

The consortium that runs the debates insists only parties with seats in the last House of Commons can participate.

The English-language debate is April 12. The French-language debate will take place April 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHO WILL BE PM?

Iggy tells Quebec: It's time to choose

▶ Michael Ignatieff exults at a rally in Drummondville, Que.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is asking the voters in Quebec to determine who will be Canada's next prime minister.

Ignatieff travelled to separatist Bloc Québécois territory in central Quebec yesterday in pursuit of his long shot bid to unseat Stephen Harper's Conservatives.

The Liberal leader has been casting the May 2 election as a two-horse, Liberal-Conservative race, a fact of life he says Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe has accepted.

Duceppe noted early in the campaign — in the context of endless Conservative warnings of a coalition government — that either Harper or Ignatieff would occupy 24 Sussex Drive after the election.

"Even Mr. Duceppe understands that," Ignatieff said before flying into Quebec City from St. John's, N.L.

"So what we've got to say to Quebecers is, you've got to choose here, folks."

Ignatieff added: "I think we've come to a fork in the road. That is, Quebecers have got to decide whether they want Prime Minister Harper or a Liberal prime minister."

Liberals held just 14 of Quebec's 75 seats — none east of Montreal — while the Conservatives had 11 when Parliament was dissolved. The Bloc has consistently maintained a stranglehold on more than half the province's seats since 1993.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper taunts Bloc

Stephen Harper paid a return visit to Quebec yesterday to continue his pitch to rural voters in a region key to his chances of winning a majority.

The districts outside Quebec's major centres represent the Tories' best chances in the province, so that's where Harper went to sell the government as Quebec's only hope for power and access.

Harper said the Bloc Québécois doesn't represent the interests of all regions of the province.

The Bloc slogan shouldn't be "Let's talk Quebec," Harper said at a rally.

"It should be let's only talk Montreal."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tears flow as women ejected from Tory event

Two women were ejected from a Conservative event for perceived ties to the Liberals — a move Michael Ignatieff calls "un-Canadian."

The Liberal leader cites an incident Sunday in which the women were ordered to leave a Tory event in London, Ont.

One woman, a 19-year-old student, broke into tears after she and her friend were forced out of a rally by an official, who then ripped off their name tags and tore them, a newspaper said.

The official claimed to know via Facebook that the pair had links to the Liberals.

Another newspaper cited an incident in which a volunteer who helps homeless veterans was turned away from a Harper rally in Dartmouth, N.S.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Stephen Harper eats maple taffy at a Quebec sugar shack yesterday.

When asked about the incidents, Harper appeared to lay the blame at the feet of his campaign workers.

"Staff runs our campaigns and I can't comment on individual matters like that," he said in Quebec.

"Hundreds and hundreds of people are coming to see our campaign."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PMO apologizes

London West Conservative candidate Ed Holder told AM980, a London, Ont., radio station, he found Sunday's incident regrettable.

▶ "The Conservative party, through the Prime Minister's Office, has issued an apology to the two students who were asked politely, but clearly, to leave — but it's still wrong," Holder said. "In fact, sometimes you get folks who are a little overzealous and they think they're doing the right thing and, frankly, that's really unfortunate."

Holder said he has been told the prime minister is willing to meet the students. METRO

Jet cost dispute heats up

- U.S. defence analyst says each stealth jet will cost $73 million more than government estimates
- Statement on Parliament Hill may influence election

Canada's new fleet of stealth jet fighters will cost almost double what the Conservative government is projecting, a U.S. defence analyst says.

Winslow Wheeler, of the Centre for Defense Information in Washington, injected himself directly into the federal election by providing his estimate at a news conference on Parliament Hill.

Wheeler said yesterday the unit cost of the F-35 jet will be about $148 million per airplane — an estimate that is in line with what the parliamentary budget officer has projected.

The government says the unit cost will be up to $75 million per jet, and has mounted repeated public attacks on the budget officer's estimate.

"Nobody on this earth is going to be buying F-35s in flyable condition at $75 million a copy. That's not in the cards," said Wheeler, who was invited to Ottawa by the left-leaning Rideau Institute think tank.

The untendered jet purchase is a contentious issue during the federal election campaign. The Liberals want to scrap any future deal with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin because they say it's not the way to go while the country is facing a deficit.

Wheeler worked for three decades on security issues for the U.S. General Accounting Office and for members on both sides of the aisle of the U.S. Senate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fight fees

The government plans to buy the 65 high-tech fighters to replace Canada's aging fleet of CF-18 jets.

- The overall cost to taxpayers would be about $15 billion over 20 years, including maintenance costs, the government says.
- That estimate is based on a unit price of $75 million per plane.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

▶ A Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is shown in this undated handout photo. A U.S. defence analyst says Canada's new fleet of stealth jet fighters will cost almost double what the Conservative government is projecting.

Marathon of 'social change' races again

The "Man In Motion" is looking for thousands of Canadians to help him recreate his groundbreaking trek across the country.

Yesterday, Rick Hansen launched an online contest to select those who will participate in a relay that will trace virtually the same route as his original tour 25 years ago.

"This is the ultramarathon of social change, and it does take the next generation to get there," Hansen said after announcing the contest to a crowd of cheering students at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Mississauga, Ont.

Some 7,000 people who have made a meaningful contribution to their community will get the chance to walk, wheel or run in the relay, set to begin Aug. 24 in Cape Spear, N.L.

The relay will cover 12,000 kilometres and pass through more than 600 communities in all provinces and territories, culminating — as it did 25 years ago — in Vancouver.

Hansen, 53, who was paralyzed from the waist down after a car accident when he was 15, inspired millions during his original Man in Motion world tour, which spanned 40,000 kilometres through 34 countries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Rick Hansen signs autographs for students at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Mississauga, Ont., yesterday as he announces the next major milestone in his upcoming cross-Canada 25th Anniversary Relay.

Dream relay

Rick Hansen wants the anniversary relay to be held for the next 25 years.

- Close to 86,000 Canadians currently live with spinal cord injuries.
- It's estimated that 90 per cent of knowledge about the condition has been discovered since Hansen first raised public attention.

Police pups named in year of the Ds

Ten puppies at the RCMP's police dog school in central Alberta aren't ready to report for duty yet, but they've all got names thanks to school kids from across the country.

The Mounties have announced the 2011 winners of an annual contest to name their canine recruits.

The dog tags this year will read: Dale, Doc, Deuce, Dief, Drey, Dragon, Deacon, Dene, Diego and Dane.

Children across Canada have been choosing names for puppies at the RCMP Police Dog Training Centre in Innisfail, Alta., for 10 years.

A different letter is chosen each year with which all the names must start.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba helps west neighbour in MS cause

Clinical trials of so-called liberation therapy for people with multiple sclerosis got a $5-million boost yesterday from Manitoba which has decided to partner with its neighbour to the west.

Saskatchewan announced late last year that it was going at it alone after other provinces and the federal government showed reluctance to do trials without more preliminary research.

It pledged $5 million and issued a call for proposals.

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger noted that with Manitoba's money now on the table, the $10 million the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada originally asked Ottawa to pony up for national trials has been achieved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sled dog industry gets whipped

A B.C. government task force into the sled dog industry has made 10 recommendations to toughen up animal cruelty laws following the slaughter of up to 100 sled dogs.

The report and a criminal investigation were ordered after it came to light this year that the operator of Whistler area's Howling Dog Tours put down between 70 and 100 dogs last April, when bookings apparently collapsed following the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games.

Premier Christy Clark says her government will adopt all the recommendations, including increased fines to up to $75,000 and 24 months in jail for the worst cases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beware email scams: Experts

B.C. bookseller, Best Buy, Air Miles among Canadian victims in hacker theft of millions of email addresses

An online bookseller in Victoria is the latest victim of a security breach involving an American email marketing company.

In an email to customers, AbeBooks says it has been warned by Texas-based Epsilon, which handles the company's email, that email addresses of some AbeBooks clients have fallen into the hands of an unauthorized person. Epsilon says a rigorous assessment determined that no other personal information was compromised.

The breach was first revealed last week, when Epsilon cautioned retailer Best Buy and Air Miles E Reward Program members that millions of customers' names and email addresses had been hacked. Account information was not exposed, the company said.

Epsilon sends more than 40 billion emails a year and has more than 2,500 business clients.

Experts say that without passwords and other sensitive data, email addresses are of little use to criminals. But they can get past a spam filter and be used to craft dangerous online attacks.

AbeBooks urges clients to be cautious if they are asked for personal or account information in an email. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 52.19 (14,270.53)	+ 0.39¢ (103.75¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
– 13¢ US ($108.34 US)	$4.231 US (– 5.8¢ US)

Gold contracts $1,452.50 US (+ $19.50 US)

Oceans. Five

▶ Sir Richard Branson announces his latest business venture yesterday at Newport Beach, Calif. Virgin Oceanic Expeditions' one-man submarine, left, will take him and others to the deepest parts of the world's oceans. "Man has not explored our oceans," he said. "If someone says something is impossible, we like to prove it's possible."

REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staking out Virgin territory

Billionaire adventurer Sir Richard Branson plans to travel to the deepest parts of the world's five oceans in a one-man submarine. The Virgin Atlantic founder and fellow explorer Chris Welsh will take turns piloting the solo craft over the next two years, Branson said yesterday at Newport Beach, Calif., where he unveiled his latest business venture. Virgin Oceanic Expeditions extends the Virgin brand from outer space down to the depths of the oceans, but the adventure also has a scientific purpose, Branson said, and he is working with ocean research groups. Eventually, however, the plan is to build a larger submarine that can hold more people and offer trips to tourists — for a sizable fee.

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Pensioners demand cut of Nortel selloff

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Former Nortel employees protest the province's handling of their pension funds at Queen's Park in Toronto last September.

Nortel pensioners are hoping Google's $900-million US offer for the last of the insolvent tech company's patents leads to even higher bids and fetches billions to potentially top up their pensions.

"Those assets are worth billions of dollars, so if anybody buys them for $1 billion, it's just a giveaway," said Anne Clark-Stewart, spokeswoman for Nortel Retirees and Former Employees Protection Canada.

Clark-Stewart estimates the entire portfolio is worth as much as $35 billion. She argues that some of that money should be earmarked for employees' underfunded pensions, which she says have lost half of their value.

Her group will be fighting for a share of the total sales of all Nortel assets along with creditors and others in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nortel patents likely to draw more bids

Research In Motion, Apple or a consortium of bidders could emerge to counter Google's $900 billion US bid for Nortel's patents, says patent expert Richard Ehrlickman. The patents cover advanced wireless networks such as Long-Term Evolution technology that would be of "tremendous value" to any high-tech company, he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

20

A patent's life is 20 years — after that, anyone can use it.

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

TAKE A LEAP: SAVE THE FROGS

If you're tired of saving the whales, why not try saving something completely different?

Save the frogs! World Save The Frog Day is April 29, and if ever a species needed a hand, it's the Kermits of the world. These days, it definitely ain't easy being green. More than 200 species of frog are now extinct, and we'll be down to no frogs in no time if we don't do something.

Did you know our increasing appetite for frogs' legs alone takes 100 million frogs out of the wild each year?

Or that Atrazine, a pesticide, turns male frogs into female frogs at only 2.5 parts per billion? And it's only one of 18,000 pesticides registered in the U.S.

You name it, it's a threat.

Frogs are hunted for their legs, but also for the pet trade and lab dissections. Bullfrogs, native to the eastern U.S., unfortunately have the meatiest extremities, so they are shipped all over the place. When they escape into the wild, they take over, and are now the alpha frogs in 15 countries, muscling out local species.

Not only that, two-thirds of imported bullfrogs carry the deadly chytrid fungus, which further contributes to the wipeout of local frog populations.

Do I even have to make the case that frogs are cool? Is there a man out there who isn't carrying around an inner boy who used to catch frogs, name them, carry them in their pockets and use them to scare girls?

If that's not cool enough for you, frogs are amphibians, the world's oldest land vertebrates, with a pedigree going back more than 360 million years, long before dinosaurs stomped around the planet.

Other frog facts: The world's smallest is the Brazilian sapo-pulga, or flea frog, less than half an inch long (10 millimetres). The world's largest is the goliath frog, which can grow to a foot long (30 centimetres) and weigh more than three kilos! Both (of course) are endangered; the flea frog by pesticides, and the West African goliath by human appetite and loss of habitat.

On World Save The Frog Day, take action by raising the consciousness of local restaurants that serve wild frogs' legs, or take in Toronto's Frog Leap-A-Thon. Here's my favourite frog folly: Students at Texas Tech will go for a Guinness World Record by organizing the largest gathering of people wearing frog masks ever.

Or you can just raise your frog flag high. Whatever, the frogs will thank you.

Of course, there's lot's more frog-saving info at savethefrogs.com.

Save the frogs!

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Worth mentioning

ROME. Italian researchers said yesterday they will dig up bones in a Florence convent to try to identify the remains of a Renaissance woman long believed to be the model for the Mona Lisa.

If successful, the research might help ascertain the identity of the woman depicted in Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece — a mystery that has puzzled scholars and art lovers for centuries and generated countless theories.

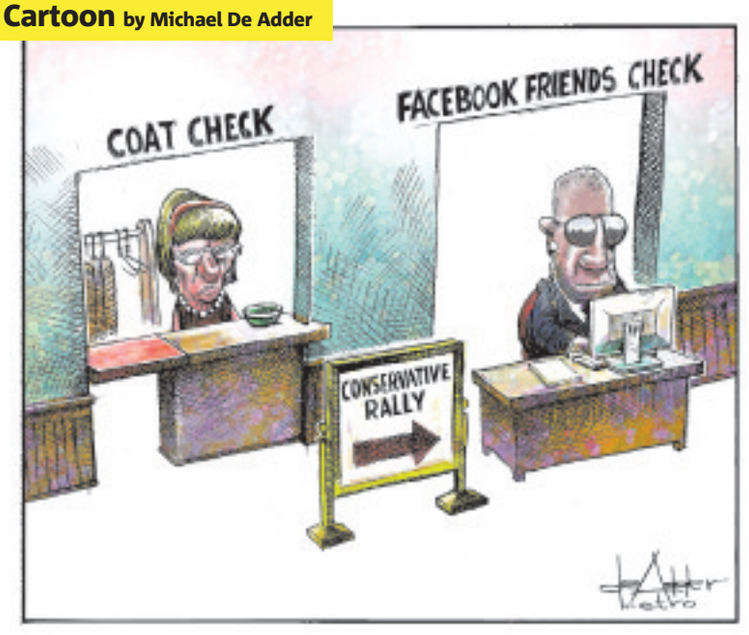
The project, launched yesterday, aims to locate the remains of Lisa Gherardini, the wife of a rich silk merchant named Francesco del Giocondo.

Tradition has long linked Gherardini to the painting, which is known in Italian as "La Gioconda" and in French as "La Joconde." Giorgio Vasari, a 16th-century artist and biographer of Leonardo, wrote that da Vinci painted a portrait of del Giocondo's wife.

Gherardini was born in 1479. A few years ago, an amateur Italian historian said he had found a death certificate showing she died July 15, 1542, and her final resting place is in central Florence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael De Adder



WEIRD NEWS

As long as the marriage isn't a disaster

Honeymoons aren't always easy for newlyweds, but six natural disasters?

When Stefan and Erika Svanstrom of Stockholm set out on their four-month-long honeymoon with their baby girl on Dec. 6, they say they got more than they bargained for: Immediately, they were stranded in Munich, Germany, due to one of Europe's worst snowstorms, he said.

But that was just the beginning.

After that, he said, they experienced the devastation of a cyclone in Cairns, Australia, and the flooding in Brisbane, and narrowly escaped the bush fires in Perth.

"We escaped by the skin of our teeth," Svanstrom said, recalling how they were evacuated in Cairns and were forced to spend 24 hours on a cement floor in a shopping centre with 2,500 others.

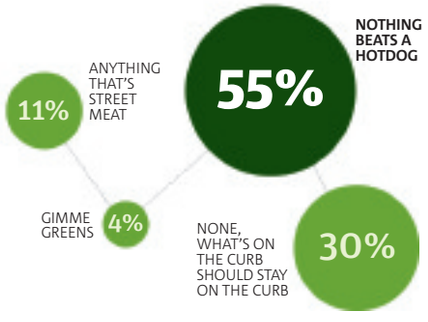
Just before they arrived in New Zealand, the 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit Christchurch and in Tokyo, they felt Japan's largest temblor since records began, he said.

Svanstrom said he also survived the devastating tsunami that hit southeast Asia in 2004.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Take the poll online at metronews.ca

Eat St. debuts tonight on Food Network. What's your favourite street eat?



TODAY'S QUESTION: WHERE DO YOUR SMARTPHONE LOYALTIES LIE?

Local tweets

- **@cshefman:** Just saw a guy on the bus (and walking down the street) barefoot in Winnipeg. It's 5 degrees and the streets (and buses) are filthy. Yuck.
- **@eswat:** I'm not much of a newspaper guy but @metrowinnipeg and all the boxes I keep running into is making it easy to sway me.
- **@EricaGlasier:** Debating writing a glowing article about @metrowinnipeg's use of QR codes, despite their ignoring my tweets about where to find a d*$% box.
- **@reidov:** Looking out the car window and I see people in shorts with slurpees, and then I hit a pothole. Spring is here. #Winnipeg
- **@Twharry:** Imagine the whole Winnipeg Coyotes crowd blanketed in white singing the chorus to Howlin' for You next spring during the playoffs. #NHL
- **@khrismonegenege:** So, so gorgeous outside right now. #winnipeg
- **@cthos:** @serraboten Do you oft find yourself #winning in #winnipeg whilst wishing #winningpeg was #winning?

metro
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2 scene

Comical

Peter Griffin and his long put-upon, but funny, family are heading to the pages of their own comic book series. Titan Comics and Twentieth Century Fox Consumer Products says that Peter; his wife, Lois; kids Meg, Chris and Stewie; along with family dog and martini aficionado, Brian, will headline their own series on July 27. Titan says the series also will feature other characters from its television counterpart, including Glen Quagmire, Cleveland Brown and Joe Swanson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stone Cold Steve Austin turned down 'Dancing With the Stars,' but supports Chris Jericho

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

BRANDING A REMAKE ROLE

It's a dangerous business trying to recapture movie magic, but Hollywood execs keep trying

Thirty years ago Dudley Moore introduced us to Arthur, a lovable but drunken millionaire playboy about to married to a wealthy heiress he did not love. "I race cars, play tennis, and fondle women," he said, "but I have weekends off, and I am my own boss."

The movie, Arthur, was a giant hit coming in fourth in the year's box office, earning four Oscar nods, winning two and spawning the number one hit Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do).

It's available on DVD and holds up very well, which is why it is a bit baffling that a remake of the same name is hitting theatres this weekend starring Russell Brand.

Remakes, of course, are nothing new. Hollywood has been recycling ideas since the beginning. For example, Cecil B. DeMille remade his own 1915 film The Golden Chance as Forbidden Fruit just six years later. The difference is that back then there was no portable archive of movies available on Blu Ray or streaming video. Older movies were essentially inaccessible to most people so a remake was simply good business. Take a good story, repackage it and hopefully do good at the box office. Later, in the pre-home video years, remakes were a way to breathe some life into older movies by giving their stories a facelift with modern stars.

But times have changed. Now, via Netflix, On-Demand and Blu Ray, it's easier and cheaper than ever to seek out and see movies like the original Arthur.

So what's the point of the remake?

Well, for one thing, it's a perfect role for the impish Russell Brand and, for another, it's always great to see his co-star Helen Mirren on screen. And who knows? Maybe it's better than the original. It wouldn't be the first time.

With so many remakes — past, present and future — perhaps philosopher Raoul Vaneigem was right when he said, "Our task is not to rediscover nature but to remake it."

HANDOUT

▶ Dudley Moore

ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Russell Brand stars in the remake of Dudley's Moore's Arthur.

A connection to his character

▶ Russell Brand credits hard partying years as reason for success at role ▶ Admits a fondness for his co-star

NED EHRBAR
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

For comedian Russell Brand, updating the drunken, childish millionaire made famous by Dudley Moore 30 years ago in Arthur came naturally — perhaps a little too naturally.

"I'm such a thorough actor that I did two decades of research into alcoholism just to make sure it was 100 per cent right," jokes Brand, himself a recovering alcoholic and drug addict. "The difference of course is that Arthur is a fictional alcoholic and has much more latitude for clowning and fun, and often his adventures don't lead to broken glass and howling women."

But in updating the story for today — the immature Arthur must choose between marrying a cold but wealthy woman (Jennifer Garner) or follow his heart and lose everything — Brand was insistent that his character's bacchanalian style of living not be showing in a completely glamorous light.

"It was very important that we established a context where the alcoholism was humorous and good fun but was not irresponsibly portrayed," he says.

"This is 2011, and it's important to see a resolution to the problem of Arthur's alcoholism, and that's one of the aspects — as a recovering alcoholic myself, I was particularly happy with how that was rendered."

Playing opposite Greta Gerwig was a treat, Brand admits.

"We saw loads and loads of different actresses, which was all right — but of course I was already on the way to getting married then, so I couldn't enjoy it like the good old days, where auditions had a rather more primal quality," Brand jokes.

But there was something about Gerwig's reading that left an impression.

"Afterward I was sitting quietly and (director) Jason (Winer) said, 'Oh, what's the matter?' I said, 'I feel sad now that she's gone,'" Brand says. "And it's because I enjoyed playing with her. She has such a brilliant imagination, she's a great improviser with a wonderful understanding of comedy, a wide range of ideas, peculiar choices — but good peculiar."

Gerwig even admits that she's developed a serious crush on her co-star, Something Brand smarts at the notion of.

"Can't do nothing about it now. Just useless," he says. "Just a wonderful, useless thing, like a yacht in the middle of Idaho."

Relationship

How being married helped him connect

Character Of course, it wasn't just Arthur's penchant for a party that Brand identified with. Another, more recent change in his life — his relationship with and marriage to Katy Perry — also helped him connect to the material, since Arthur is caught off guard when he meets a not-so-wealthy young woman played by Greta Gerwig. "My life has been changed by falling in love, so I know that whilst that is a romantic idea and in this case fictional, it's something that has happened to me," Brand says. "That's why I'm so enamored of this story."

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILES

▶ Katie Holmes and daughter Suri

Big plans for Suri's birthday

Mom Katie plans pool party, piñata for 5th birthday bash

Katie Holmes is gearing up for daughter Suri's birthday. "She's turning five in about two weeks. She wants a piñata and her girlfriends to come over [and go] swimming. We're gonna make a cake together," Holmes tells Ryan Seacrest during a radio interview.

"This is my favourite day of the year. So we're gonna have a little tea party, and I like to girl it up." METRO

▶ Christina Aguilera

Aguilera: Not the best year

Christina Aguilera is willing to admit that, between her divorce, botching the National Anthem at the Super Bowl and getting arrested for public intoxication, she's been having a rough year.

"There have been obvious setbacks. It's a life-uprooting time and there have been hiccups along the way that unfortunately the whole world gets to witness and judge," Aguilera says, according to Us Weekly.

"I can laugh about my own hiccups and my own experiences in life because I'm getting through it." METRO

Franco: Twitter is so over

After a brief foray into Twitter, James Franco is over the whole concept. "Social media is over. Still up there. Going down. You heard it here first," Franco says, according to Politico.

The actor, who live-Tweeted during his Oscars hosting gig, has made his own account private. "Certain companies I work with contacted me about what I was saying," he explains. METRO

Bublé's home robbed

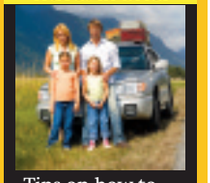
While singer Michael Bublé and actress Luisana Lopilato were tying the knot in Argentina over the weekend, their home was burglarized, according to TMZ.

Despite the incident, the wedding weekend continues.

"I will not let this ruin the happiest day of my life," Lopilato told reporters. METRO

3 life

Travel in brief



Tips on how to deal with long car trips.

• Pack several different entertainment items suited for each child. When they tire of one, they can move on to the next.

• Pack healthy snacks that your kids enjoy. Time travels more slowly when you're hungry.

• Stop and smell the roses: scenic look–outs and picnic areas are great places to let kids burn off some of that boundless energy.

• Old favourites: time flies when you're doing group activities like singing songs together, playing I Spy or seeing how many provincial and state licence plates you can count.

NEWS CANADA

Gulf Coast tourism officials 'cautiously optimistic' about prospects for 2011

- Sin city has a pair of new attractions related to the town's ties with organized crime
- Musuem will have wide variety of artifacts, as well as protect historical buildings
- Tropicana's 'Mob Experience' gives visitors a chance to get 'made"

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A limo once belonging to mobster Bugsy Siegel is seen on display at the Mob Experience at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The Mob Experience is an interactive attraction featuring gangster memorabilia and commentary from film mobsters James Caan, Mickey Rourke and Frank Vincent.

Vegas embraces its organized past

Speakeasies, bootleggers, gun-wielding crime bosses and tough-guy accents pay homage to Las Vegas' mob roots in a pair of new attractions showcasing Sin City's criminal history.

An interactive attraction featuring gangster memorabilia and commentary from film mobsters James Caan, Mickey Rourke and Frank Vincent opened last week on the Las Vegas Strip. And Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, a former mob defence lawyer, plans to launch his Las Vegas Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement later this year. For Las Vegas, the attractions represent an unprecedented embrace of its infamous founders.

"What differentiates us from any other city is our history," Goodman said. "This is the story of America."

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Actors playing mobsters act out a scene at the Mob Experience at the Tropicana in Las Vegas.

The desert oasis made famous by scantily-clad showgirls, ubiquitous slot machines and 24-hour happy hours has long celebrated its reputation as a haven of vice, but its relationship with the mob has taken a few hits in recent years. The city that once proudly boasted of its ties to organized crime — Goodman played himself in the 1995 mob movie Casino — has instead promoted its family-friendly restaurants and Broadway shows for the past decade.

No more.

The Tropicana casino and hotel, a one-time hangout for organized crime now more known for its bargain-counter room rates, celebrated its new "Mob Experience" attraction last week with a red carpet party attended by the son of Tony "The Ant" Spilotro, the inspiration for the bloodthirsty Joe Pesci character in Casino.

The sprawling casino attraction features the diary of mobster Meyer Lansky, Spilotro's gun and family photos and home movies from other infamous criminals.

Visitors are greeted by life-size holograms of chatty gangsters and a chance to get "made."

The publicly-funded mob museum, meanwhile, is slated to open in December at a downtown Las Vegas courthouse where a detailed mob hearing that helped expose organized crime to ordinary Americans was held in 1950.

The $42 million museum started as an effort to save one of Las Vegas' few historic buildings. It's amassed a wide collection of gangster artifacts, including the wall from Chicago's St. Valentine's Day massacre, the only gun recovered at the mass shooting and the barber chair where hit man Albert Anastasia's life came to an end in 1957.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Can mushrooms bring out the love?

LARRY CROWE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This stroganoff is great served over brown or red rice as well as mashed potatoes or the more traditional noodles.

When you're looking to cook up some vegetarian love, the world's cuisines offer plenty of ways to stimulate the senses.

"It's a lovely way to do it, especially if you've been somewhere and you want to recreate a magical moment," says Troth Wells, author of One World Vegetarian Cookbook.

Oysters and steak with bearnaise have long been the standard for "romantic" meals, but Wells says the inherent sensuality of vegetables will tickle the senses without leaving you too full to frolic after.

And then there are the spices. Considered aphrodisiacs by many ancient cultures, spices such as nutmeg are said to increase amorous function. Chili releases endorphins, while cinnamon, cardamom and cloves have historically been considered erotic scents.

"Like diamonds and perfume, anything that's expensive and requires some dangerous exploits to get it has some sexual excitement to it," she says.

Mushroom Stroganoff

Preparation:

1. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat oil. Add onion and sauté for 4 minutes. Add garlic and sauté for another 30 seconds.
2. Increase heat to high and add mushrooms, paprika and nutmeg. Sauté for 10 minutes or until mushrooms are soft and brown.
3. Add wine and balsamic vinegar, stir well. Bring to a simmer reduce heat and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in cilantro, then creme fraiche. Season with salt and pepper. Serve over rice, mashed potatoes or noodles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ RECIPE ADAPTED FROM ONE WORLD VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK BY TROTH WELLS (INTERLINK, 2011)

Ingredients:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) canola oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 500 g (1 lb) button or mixed mushrooms, sliced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) paprika
- Pinch nutmeg
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) white wine
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fresh cilantro
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) creme fraiche
- Salt and black pepper

Gourmet on the streets

Eat St.'s host James Cunningham profiles street vendors and discovers that many have a high-end edge

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE FOOD NETWORK HO

▶ Comedian James Cunningham hosts Eat St., which spotlights popular street eats.

Canadian comedian James Cunningham has noticed what he calls a "revolution" taking shape in North America's gourmet food world — mouth-watering mobile meals.

As host of the Vancouver-produced series Eat St., debuting tonight on Food Network Canada, Cunningham has been travelling around the U.S. (with a stop in B.C. as well) for the past nine months to profile popular street eats.

Along the way, he's noticed that many food trucks and carts these days are far from your average greasy-spoon street stop — they're run by professional chefs serving comfort dishes with a gourmet edge.

"With what's been happening with the economy ... we have all these chefs looking for a way to bring their food to the people," the Toronto native said.

"Either you sink a whole bunch of money into a restaurant or you do what they did: Get really creative, open up a food truck and serve this great gourmet stuff to people on the street."

The first episode of Eat St. (airing at 9:30 p.m. ET) opens with a profile of the Grilled Cheese Truck in L.A., which has a rabid following and a menu that includes the Cheesy Mac&Rib (southern-style macaroni and cheese, pulled smoked pork and caramelized onions) and the Brie Melt (made on cranberry-walnut bread with pears and honey).

Then it's off to Austin, Tex., to visit two stationary trailers — Izzoz Tacos and the G'Raj Mahal, which serves authentic dishes from Goa, India. The final stop is Schnitzel & Things mobile food truck in New York City.

"It blows your mind because whenever you walk up to a street truck you think: 'Oh, I'll get a hot dog, I'll get my little gyro, or I'll get my fries," said Cunningham, whose TV credits include Last Comic Standing.

"And what comes out of that window is just unbelievable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RETAIL SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER

Metro Winnipeg is seeking four (4) Retail Sales Account Managers to achieve regional targets for both print & online, plus page yields, by developing and growing an existing retail sales territory. As part of a highly cohesive sales team and reporting to the Sales Manager, Metro Winnipeg the successful candidate would have the following:

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Manage an assigned retail sales territory and acquire market knowledge by becoming involved in the territory's community
- Design advertising programs to match clients' objectives
- Prospect for new accounts by soliciting new business in the marketplace
- Creatively negotiate rates in accordance with Metro's guidelines and restrictions
- Sell a portfolio of Metro branded products
- Keep clear and accurate customer files in Metro's CRM

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Post secondary degree or diploma in a related field preferred
- At least 3 yrs experience in retail sales, media sales is an asset
- Valid drivers license and a vehicle
- Proficient in Microsoft Office including PowerPoint, Excel, Word & Outlook
- Attention to detail and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Creative, efficient, flexible, entrepreneurial, collaborative & detail oriented
- Strong communication abilities: writing, presentation and design
- Proven track record in profitable selling

Individuals interested and having the skills described are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than April 11, 2011. PLEASE QUOTE: "Retail Sales Account Manager - Winnipeg" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

How to make that PowerPoint pop

Click, click, click, snooze? Keep your colleagues awake with these tips on perfecting the work presentation

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

When the moment comes to deliver a sales pitch or propose a project, all too many speech-shy professionals fall back on what may be the modern world's most tedious way to present an idea: PowerPoint.

Speech coaches say there's no better tool for turning a slide show into a drag.

"I myself like PowerPoint, I just don't like what people do with it," bemoans Elayne Snyder, public speaking expert. "They put a whole bunch of stuff up on the screen, which is the worse thing there is to do."

Cramming your slides with fine text could make your PowerPoint feel power pointless. To avoid the temptation, script your speech on a scrap of paper.

"Don't put together your presentation in PowerPoint," speech coach Patricia Fripp recommends. "Build it on a pad of paper, a white board, or on a flip chart, and then ask yourself, where absolutely must I add the PowerPoint?"

With a good script, you might be surprised how little you need it.

"If you're engaging the audience, and you're telling a story, you won't need PowerPoint," she says. "But if you're looking to illustrate a point, you might want to have a chart, or a graph, or a diagram. Or, if it's a learning session, you just put bullet points of what you want people to remember."

One of the biggest dangers in using a slide show in a pitch isn't what it does to your speech – it's what it does to your body language.

"When delivering the presentation, never look at the screen," Snyder stresses. "People don't want to see the back of your head."

Fixating your eyes on the audience in front of you conveys confidence, she adds. And long after that audience has forgotten the contents of slide 27 — or how quirky the animated .gif was on slide 42 – they will remember the impression they took away of you.

"A speech is all about building rapport with the audience," Fripp concurs. "If the audience is reading your PowerPoint, then they can't listen and pay attention to you."

ISTOCK

▶ Wake up those workers!

A grip on the grind

Papers piling up at a rapid pace? Learn how to handle your work

TINA CHADHA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

If most days at work your to-do list is left undone, you drag assignments home when you should be relaxing and 500 or so unread e-mails point their fingers at you every time you open your inbox — then it's time to get organized. Laura Leist, an organization and productivity consultant, gives us tips:

1 "It's always best to plan for the next day at the end of day," says Leist. "I say pick three really important things that you need to get done. A lot of times people pick too many things to do and they feel like nothing is accomplished."

2 "Once you picked your three tasks, those are things you should do first." She recommends holding off on the little things you can scratch off the list first. "You want to work toward getting the bigger stuff done."

3 "It's unrealistic to say you're going to work on a project for eight hours in the day, because things always come up," says Leist.

"It's more realistic to say, 'I'm going to spend two or three hours a day on this project.' Then you'll have other time during those days to work on other projects, too."

4 Implement a task-management system — and use it daily.

"You need something to keep track of the current things you're working on and a place to store your ideas for future projects," says Leist.

She suggests applications such as TeuxDeux.com, RememberTheMilk.com and ActionMethod.com.

5 "Use your calendar to schedule projects you are working on, meetings and networking things you're going to," says Leist.

This way, you can look back at the end of the day or week and see what didn't get accomplished. Then move those tasks forward to the following day or week.

ISTOCK

▶ Are all those little birdies falling quickly out of line?

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Flyers look to return Leighton to their roster

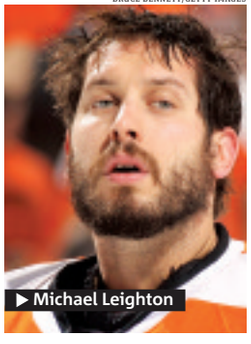
The Flyers placed goaltender Michael Leighton on re-entry waivers yesterday with the hope that he can rejoin Philadelphia's post-season roster.

General manager Paul Holmgren confirmed the move, which allows a 24-hour period for other teams to claim him at half of his remaining contract, while the Flyers would pay the other half. If he is unclaimed by noon today, he would be able to join the Flyers again.

Leighton, 29, one of many heroes in Philadelphia's improbable run to the Stanley Cup final last season as a No. 7 seed, was originally placed on waivers on Jan. 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Michael Leighton

Ballpark attack may lead to brain damage

A San Francisco Giants fan who was beaten at Dodger Stadium after last week's opening game shows signs of brain damage and remains in critical condition, a doctor said yesterday.

Meanwhile, detectives were looking into unconfirmed reports that the same suspects struck other Giants fans minutes before the attack that left Bryan Stow in a coma.

Stow, a 42-year-old paramedic and father of two from Santa Cruz, remained in critical but guarded condition at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger seeks a way back

- Woods still trying to figure out how to escape recent doldrums
- No. 1 for most of his career, he's now seventh and fading fast

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tiger Woods speaks to the media yesterday at Augusta National Golf Club.

The circus is largely gone and so, mostly, are the questions about his personal life. Tiger Woods returned to the Masters this week without feeling the urge to apologize for anything, even the poor state of his game.

A year ago, the chairman of Augusta National lectured him about his conduct and what it meant to the game of golf. Yesterday, he was welcomed back to his 17th Masters as a four-time champion who means so much to golf.

A lot has changed for Woods in the year since he emerged from self-imposed exile following his sex scandal. What hasn't changed is that some of his play has been almost as embarrassing as the revelations about his personal life.

The man who once wowed fans with booming drives and precision irons now struggles to keep up with his playing partners. The player who never used to miss a six-footer now can only shake his head as the putts don't come near the hole.

Woods says it's nothing more than finding his way through a new swing change. Others who know something about human failings believe it may go a lot deeper than fairways and greens.

"He's got experience coming back from technical problems, but he doesn't have experience coming back from shame," said Sharon Chirban, a Harvard sports psychologist who coaches athletes in her private practice. "Until the shame is managed, he will never come back to the level of play he had before."

What is going on in his golf game seems pretty murky, though Woods insisted again yesterday that his only problems are refining his new swing and figuring out a way to make more putts. It's been his stock answer since he came out of seclusion here last year amid a circus that included planes flying overhead carrying banners taunting him, tabloids stalking him, and so many reporters wanting to ask him questions that tickets had to be issued for his pre-tournament press conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada keeps pace with Scots

5-3

Switzerland's Christof Schwaller won his third straight to sit at 5-3 behind the leaders.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jeff Stoughton

Canada's Jeff Stoughton kept pace with Scotland's Tom Brewster at the Ford World Curling Championship with an 11-5 win over Thomas Dufour of France yesterday.

The Canadians and Scots were tied atop the leaderboard at 6-0, setting up a battle between unbeaten teams last night.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the preliminary round Thursday advance to the Page playoff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"It seems that everyone has pretty much got Mickelson in the green jacket Sunday evening and there's not much use in turning up at this point. He's a great player around Augusta, and if you finish ahead of him, you've got a decent chance."

U.S. OPEN CHAMPION GRAEME MCDOWELL ON PHIL MICKELSON BEING THE FAVOURITE TO WIN THE MASTERS.

Scan code for more sports

5 drive

Engine performance

A mix of new and old can be found beneath the Touareg's freshly formed hood. A 280-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 (TSI) carries over as the base gasoline engine.

Still optional is a 225-horsepower 3.0-litre V6 turbo-diesel (TDI) that makes 406 pound-feet of torque.

The TDI is rated at 11.9 l/100 km in the city and 8.0 on the highway, compared with 12.3/8.8 l/100 km for the TSI.

Wider, shorter and lighter

The Touareg is now a bit wider, but shorter than before and has been stretched by about 3.8 centimetres between the front and rear wheels.

However, the greatest singular advancement is in the 160 kilograms that have been excised from the vehicle. Most of the seven-per-cent weight reduction comes from lightening the platform and powertrain as well as a number of key suspension components that are now constructed of aluminum.

4MOTION

All Touaregs come standard with VW's dual-range 4MOTION all-wheel-drive setup that in normal driving situations maintains a 40:60 front-to-rear torque bias. The system also features a locking centre differential that fixes the torque split to maximize traction over slippery terrain.

For 2011, Comfortline, Highline and Execline trim levels are offered. All feature a wealth of luxury content.

▶ The Touareg looks different, for sure, but just as important is that it weighs significantly less. Coupled to a new eight-speed automatic transmission, fuel economy is much improved.

Give this SUV some respect

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

Rodney Dangerfield famously complained that he never received a scintilla of respect.

In terms of overall popularity, the Volkswagen Touareg has had the same issue with its 2004-model-year launch.

Perhaps it's the nearly unpronounceable name (Touareg, or Twah-regg, refers to a nomadic Sahara-dwelling tribe), its low-key styling or a price tag that outdistances many of its luxury competitors.

But it could also be that people shopping for vehicles in this bracket are reluctant to spend in excess of 50 large for a Volkswagen, regardless of how proficient it is at churning up the sod.

These folks can cross-shop VW's Audi offshoot for the five-passenger, V6-equipped Q5 sport ute that offers upscale brand name cachet for about the same price as a new Touareg.

Fortunately VW has managed to attract sufficient fans of the marque to invest in an updated second-generation wagon that wraps its rugged underpinnings in a more attractive package.

Now that the slimmed-down Touareg has also been made more attractive and less thirsty, Volkswagen can likely expect more look-sees and a less of the Rodney Dangerfield treatment.

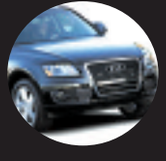
▶ A look at the cargo space of the Touareg.

▶ There's really no such thing as a "base" Touareg since you get leather and a fancy touch screen in the centre stack.

By comparison

Volvo XC60 AWD
Base price: $46,200
Cool and comfy all-weather wagon that focuses on safety, agility.

Audi Q5 V6
Base price: $51,700
Touareg's second cousin with a luxurious cabin and Quattro four-wheel-drive.



Lincoln MKX AWD
Base price: $48,000
New-look 2011 model a techno-marvel inside plus plenty of interior space.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

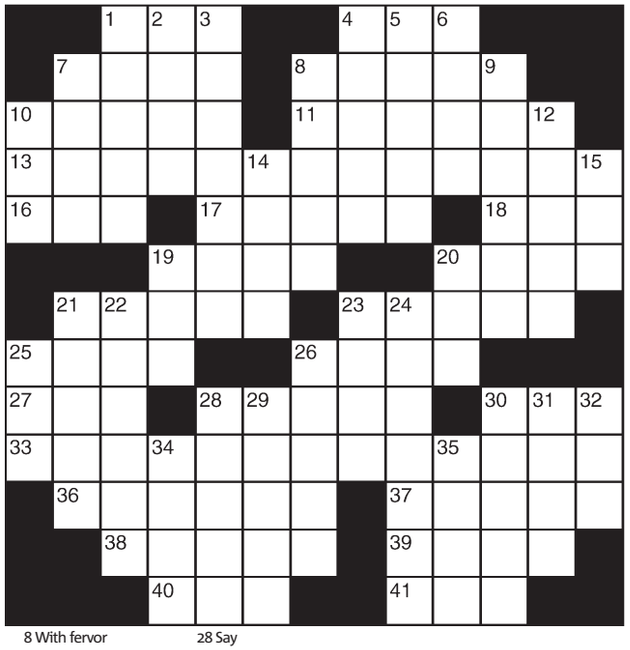
Scan code for more car reviews and news

Touareg

What you should know about the 2011 Volkswagen Touareg:

- **Types:** Four-door, four-wheel-drive sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (280); 3.0-litre DOHC V6, turbo-diesel (225).
- **Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic.
- **Market position:** The Touareg slots into the mid-luxury group of sport utility vehicles that includes both genuine off-road-capable vehicles plus so-called soft-roaders that function well in poor weather and/or poor road conditions.

Crossword



Across

1 Cage component
4 More, to Manuel
7 Actress Spelling
8 Island south of Sicily
10 November birthstone
11 Under the weather
13 Binary array
16 Marry
17 Poet James Whitcomb —
18 Pensioned (Abbr.)
19 Bohemian
20 Simple
21 Guys
23 Penniless
25 Coffee shop vessels
26 Satyrlike figure
27 Standard
28 Wrinkly fruits
30 Bando of baseball lore
33 Romantic whisperings
36 Computer style
37 Motorola smartphone
38 Considers
39 Springsteen's "— Fire"
40 Before
41 Chow down

Down

1 Lassoed
2 Alternatives to 401(k)s
3 More than just odd
4 Corn
5 Cats' bailiwick
6 Commotion
7 Color quality
8 With fervor
9 Parka
10 AAA job
12 Silliness symbols
14 Little lice
15 Pigpen
19 Commercials
20 A billion years
21 Elongate vowels, maybe
22 Illiterate
23 Worms, often
24 "The Satanic Verses" author
25 Boom times
26 Disasters
28 Say
29 Travelocity mascot
30 Beezer
31 Not "fer"
32 1960s hallucinogen
34 Duel tool
35 "My Friend —"

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	R	A	T	■	B	A	D	■	P	A	S	S
L	I	R	A	■	E	G	O	■	A	L	E	E
U	S	E	R	■	R	E	S	T	R	I	C	T
R	E	S	T	A	G	E	■	H	E	A	T	H
■	■	■	A	S	S	■	G	I	N	■	■	■
S	T	I	N	K	■	R	E	S	T	A	R	T
I	O	N	■	■	O	U	T	■	■	D	U	O
R	E	S	T	Y	L	E	■	H	A	S	T	Y
■	■	■	■	O	E	D	■	V	I	Z	■	■
E	D	E	M	A	■	R	E	S	T	O	R	E
R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	■	E	V	E	R
A	L	T	O	■	G	N	U	■	C	A	N	S
S	I	A	M	■	E	K	E	■	S	L	O	T

Sudoku

9			6		8			4
	8		4		5		3	
		7				2		
		1	2		4	6		
6								1
		2	1		6	8		
		8				3		
	3		8		1		4	
2			7		9			5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Jennifer, You are the most amazing and beautiful girl I have ever seen. Even when your at your worst, you remind me of the rainbow. Your sweet, funny and great to be around. Love you long time boo **LOVE ALWAYS, SB**

Happy Birthday, Sleeping Beauty. Wish you all the happiness and joy for today and always. I treasure all our special moments and look forward to many more with you. With lots of love, J'taime. **PRINCE CHARMING**

i love you xubi! Thank you for being such an amazing husband.. U make everyday beautiful =) ... **LOVE, HINU!**

Dear Marie, Just a small poem to thou from thee. U r amazing it is plain to see, I am very happy that U and I spells we. XOXO **GEMINIGUY**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -10°	Min 1°	Min 2°
Max 7°	Max 9°	Max 8°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning."
WEEKDAYS 6AM

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Get it together. Create something amazing over the next day.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Others may worry about the future, but you know that what's to come isn't yet written.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It's always important to get your timing right, and now is the time to make your mark.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Force yourself to make an effort. The results will be surprising, and the rewards will be amazing.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Find new ways to explore your world. Do something exciting.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 While others take risks and look foolish, you weigh odds and make the right moves.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Sometimes, you have no choice but to follow someone who has a better proposal. It's that time.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 It's not often that you act on impulse, but you'll do so today. It's all or nothing.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Be creative and try something new. Aim high, then go higher.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If a friend offers you advice, you would be wise to pin back your ear lobes and listen.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 The first idea that comes to mind is the one you must follow, no matter how strange.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. If you're brave enough to follow your gut, you might make a fortune. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

DAVID T. FOSTER III/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KERSTIN JOENSSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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